MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question No. 206. Abent.

*206. [*The questioners (Shri Parvathaneni Upendra) was absent. For answers,* vide *cols.* 39-40 infra].

PROTOCOL WITH USSR REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATION TRAFFIC TRANSIT

*207. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed a protocol with U.S.S.R. for providing telecommunication traffic transit to some third countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has signed a protocol and a programme of co-operation with the USSR.

In the programme of co-operation, both the countries have agreed to render assistance in providing telecommunication traffic transit to some third counries. The possibility of establishing automatic transit of telephone calls between India and some third countries via the U.S.S.R. as well as between the U.S.S.R. and some third countries via India would be considered.

(b) This is an enabling provision. No concrete proposals have been finalised.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, this agreement is welcome. I would like the Minister to tell us which are the third countries which are likely to benefit from this.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the protocol has been signed and third countries have not been identified. But prohability is there of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia Philippines and Singapore and also from the other side of Poland, Czechoslavakia, Hungary, Romania; Yogoslavia, East Germany and Albania, provided those countries do request USSR or India. Both the USSR and India should be agreeable to give it. It is subject to future discussions.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, what action plans are envisaged for extending telecommunication facilities for industrial projects by the end of the current year? And part (b) of my question is, whether under this protocol technical and economic cooperation aspects of tele-communition development will be studied by means of satellite communication; if so, what measures have been taken in this direction.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that those industries which are in India with U.S.S.R collaboration are also subject-matter of this protocol for giving tele-communication facilities an in the protocol we have also identified improved satellite telecommunication between India and U.S.S.R. Nothing has been finalized. The protocol has been signed and in future discussions in those areas, technologies will be identified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question... (*Interruption*).

Refusal of Foreign Students in the Aligarh Muslim University to Undergo Aids Test

*208. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foerign students of the Aligarh Muslim University have recently refused to undergo AIDS test; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative the total strength of foreign students at the Aligarh Muslim University who have ungerdone the AIDS test; and

(c) whether Government propose to insist on the AIDS test to foreign students

†The question was actually asked on the flour of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.